

# The Intelligencer.

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E. N. HOPKINS - Editor  
I. G. NEALE - Business Manager

## THE VENEZUELAN TROUBLE.

The Kansas City Journal of the 25 inst. contained a very sane and thoughtful editorial upon the principles involved in the Venezuela difficulty. There are two considerations, however, which the Journal failed to take into account. Whether these considerations are weighty enough to change the judgment from one side of the case to the other is another matter, depending largely upon the individual's mental attitude toward several general propositions.

In the first place, all of the claims both of Germany and England have arisen since Venezuela and every other South American State made public announcement of adherence to the Calvo doctrine. It matters very little whether the Calvo doctrine is thought to be just or unjust. It had been announced in advance of the operations upon which the claims are based. Many interesting parallels might be drawn illustrative of the same moral question. The Calvo doctrine is a no more serious trespass upon the law of nations than our homestead regulations upon the law of contracts. If the German bankers did not like the Calvo doctrine they did not have to purchase the bonds. And as far as the claims of the German citizens who are actually resident in Venezuela, it would seem wrong to enforce by arms the application of the law of nations in a particular in which that law had been previously disavowed by the Latin republic. These matters relate to the rights of property; but we once had a contention and a war with a European nation involving the same moral principle in relation to the rights of persons. England insisted on applying her naturalization laws to Englishmen resident in this country. She insisted that "once an Englishman always an Englishman." We insisted that if she did not want us to naturalize them, she ought to keep them at home.

All of England's claims against Venezuela and a large part of Germany's claims are on account of private investment losses incident to recent revolutions in the South American republic. Just why the investments of foreigners should be exempt from the incidents of revolution, fire, flood, or earthquake any more than those of citizens is not clear, unless we accept the comfortable doctrine, now popular in this country as in the imperialistic monarchies of Europe, that, whenever we find a government which does not conduct itself as we think it should, it is our moral duty to take it in and teach it our ways—for a consideration.

## PROPOSED LEGISLATION.

Two of the most important matters likely to come up before the approaching session of the legislature in Missouri relate to the subjects of wills and deeds. It will be proposed to alter the probate laws so as to insure, in a measure, against contest of wills by providing for their filing with the probate court when the wills are drawn and for an examination of the testator and even of the will itself, if there be no objection, so that the court may straighten out in advance any difficulties that might otherwise arise later. Such a law could hardly be so drawn as to entirely obviate contests of wills, but there is no doubt that much could be done to relieve the courts and the people of much shameful and expensive litigation.

The other matter relates to the transfer of real estate. It is proposed to apply the Torrens title system to cities having a population of more than one hundred thousand inhabitants. When the convenience and satisfaction of this system has once been experienced it will be demanded by smaller cities and will be gradually extended to country districts as in Massachusetts and Minnesota. That a people who have made such advances as we have in material progress should tolerate a system of conveyancing so slow, complicated, expensive, annoying and abominable is past belief. The so-called Torrens system has been in use in some parts of the world as long as two hundred years. It has been tried in five states of this country and in no place where it has been tried would the people

think of going back to the old system any more than they would to the town pump and the tallow candle. The only thing that has ever stood in the way of the general introduction of the Torrens system is the initial expense of straightening up and passing upon titles. Real estate holdings can be made almost as flexible as certificates of stock, and this without interfering in the least with present theories of tenures.

## THE COCHRAN BILL.

Representative Cochran, of Missouri, a member of the committee on coinage, weights and measures, is preparing a currency bill to be offered as a substitute for the much talked of Fowler banking bill. The details are not yet fully worked out, but in an interview Mr. Cochran has said that his bill will provide for deposit with the secretary of the treasury by banks wishing to issue notes, national, state, and municipal, bonds equal to fifty per cent of their capital. Such a plan, while much to be preferred to the Fowler bill, is doubtless satisfactory to Mr. Cochran only as being the best that can be hoped for under existing circumstances. It would contribute an element of flexibility to the volume of circulation—an end to be desired—but as a solution of any real, fundamental difficulties it is defective and is to be looked upon as a make shift. It is not often that truth lies in extremes, but in this particular case the people must sooner or later find that the government will have either to get into the banking business or get out of it. The recommendation of the president that the "burden of furnishing a circulating medium should be thrown upon the banks" is as to the unscrupulous as to be expected of a man who has dragged his brain with the fallacies of protectionist republicanism. Such circulating medium will not circulate unless the government becomes its endorser—a position in which the government has much to lose and nothing to gain. If the government must endorse for the banks it might as well be in the banking business itself.

## JUDGE GANTT FOR GOVERNOR.

The Kansas City Star is booming Judge Gantt for governor in 1904. Few men in the state stand higher with his party than Judge Gantt. His party record is faultless, his ability is everywhere recognized, he is popular, he is allied with no embarrassing factions. But if Judge Gantt really wants to be governor of Missouri he must shake off the Star's cumbering weight. It is conceivable that some good man might be nominated and elected governor of this state who enjoyed the friendship and approval of Col. Bill Phelps or Lee Merriweather; one might even win the race in spite of the active encouragement of Little Lonnie; but with the Kansas City Star for a backer, he might as well consider himself hobbled, hamstrung, broken backed, and tethered to a tree from the very outset. Without utterly scorning the Star's support and even charging conspiracy in the Star's friendship, even so good a man as Judge Gantt would have a hard time qualifying to enter the race. Start right, Judge Gantt, if you wish to be governor.

## "NOBILITY."

The Crown Princess of Saxony, a mother of five children, has run away from her home, family, and the succession on the ground that her husband is a "drunken, immoral beast." The prince replies with the charge that she has run away to join her French master with whom her relations have hitherto been scandalous. And this all suggests that if the social and political systems of Europe with its feudal orders and its state church were bown to atoms with dynamite tomorrow and society reconstructed upon a modern basis, the world would be better off. There is not now and there never has been any real nobility except among those who do the world's work and assume the world's responsibilities.

"How's it be, it seems to me  
"The only noble is the good,  
"Kind hearts are more than coronets,  
"And simple faith than Norman blood."  
So wrote Tennyson before he sold his soul for a laurel wreath and a baronetcy and forswore the faith of his youth.

Marshall is rejoicing over its new Missouri Pacific depot, which from the newspaper descriptions must be a very handsome one for a city of that size. The depot question for Lexington is in about the same state as the Kansas City agitation upon the same subject. It applies the interest with us is mostly a matter of location.

## GARY ON TRUSTS.

Cresman, the newspaper correspondent, recently interviewed Elbert H. Gary, who, more than any other one man, is responsible for the organization of the steel trust. He questioned him closely upon the the success, the limitations and the dangers of great industrial combines. Mr. Gary was decidedly optimistic. He said that the steel trust had paid better month after month and had improved its operating methods constantly. He said he saw no dangers threatening. In reply to repeated and persistent inquiries upon this matter he finally admitted that there was one danger ahead. He said:

"Only one. It is a cry for a change in the tariff. For many years my mind was open on the tariff, but I have become a firm believer in protection. That is the only cloud on our horizon."

Now Mr. Roosevelt tells a different story. He says that tariff reduction would serve the purpose of destroying the competitors of the trusts, thereby according to the benefit of the trusts. Mr. Gary says it would destroy the trusts. Between the two what becomes of the notion that industrial combinations are designed to reduce operating expenses? Mr. Roosevelt's prediction is based upon this theory. Mr. Gary's statement is as much an admission that the theory is false and that the object of such combinations is to maintain a monopoly price in the home market while selling at a competitive price in foreign markets.

## THE TERRITORIES.

Beveridge's recommendation and bill for the admission of Oklahoma and Indian Territory as a single state is about as coarse work as Col. Kerens fusion with Lee Merriweather. Everybody knows that the United States has treaties solemnly made with the Indian tribes of the territory, which cannot be abrogated for years—in all probability for a quarter of a century. Some of the tribes are willing now to surrender their treaty rights and others could probably be bought off, but some of them will hold out until stronger pressure than any now in sight can be brought to bear. The truth is, Beveridge does not want any of the territories admitted. He is afraid that they are democratic and that their admission would mean more democratic United States senators. Beveridge could doubtless readily see the advisability of dividing Montana into two or three states.

## THE NESBIT LAW.

The Jefferson club, of St. Louis, has appointed a committee of thirty-five members to hear and codify republican objections to the present Nesbit election law with a view to suggesting amendments at the approaching session of the legislature. The Nesbit law is not perfect in its practical operation. No election law is so. But certainly there is no singular law more fair in intent than this one as it now stands. Up to this time, the objections, filed against it relate only to petty working details. None of the violent criticisms indulged in during the campaign find place in the recommendations of the conservative republicans who have suggested the changes desired by their party. In fact the suggestions of Finkelnberg and Gilliam seem entirely reasonable and as desirable to democrats as to republicans, being in the interest of honest elections and honest registration.

The state legislature will meet January 7 and one of the first matters of interest will be the election of a president pro tem of the senate. Thomas L. Ruby, of La Plata; E. B. Fields, of Brownlow; Ernest Martin, of Marshall; and the present incumbent, Frank Farris, will be among the candidates. The selection of any of these other gentlemen in the place of Farris would doubtless be satisfactory to the great majority of democrats. Certainly no one who has the good of the party of the sake at heart wants to have anything to do with Farris.

President Roosevelt has been invited by the stock men of Montana to participate in their mountain lion "drive." These gentlemen are acting upon a misapprehension. Mr. Roosevelt is great on bears and trusts but his mettle as a lion driver has never been tested. A man can't be good at everything.

Guyton and Harrington, of Lathrop, Mo., have a contract to furnish 70,000 miles within sixty days to restock Boer farms. This will mean that over \$10,000,000 of foreign gold will be put in circulation in this state at once.

The grain and live stock exports of the United States during the ten months ending Nov. 31st fell off \$116,000,000. The increase in exports of manufactured goods more than balanced this amount. The prices of the products of the farm products were determined by fair competition since farmers are too numerous to form trusts. The prices of the manufactured goods exported were 40 per cent lower abroad than Americans have to pay for the same.

According to the statistics carefully made by Consul General A. D. Barlow at the City of Mexico, \$500,000,000 has been invested by American companies and individuals in Mexican business enterprises within the past five years. These figures include only the investments of 1,117 large concerns and omits all smaller firms and individual investments.

## From the Pulpit.

The nation will be just as good and as safe as the individuals composing it.—Rev. P. Barr.

If one love God as the Master bids he can grasp every hand offered in the same love.—Rev. Dr. Byrd.

The man who continues downward only accelerates his own monument and returns becomes more and more difficult.—Rev. J. C. Smith.

Christ emancipated the soul from the thrall of self and sin, and supplied us with energy for victory by girding us with might of deathless hope.—Rev. J. D. Freeman.

It is good to feel the heart beat stronger in anticipation of some object when that object embraces not alone our little selves but the great good of humanity.—Rev. Dr. Bishop.

If the spirit of honor and righteousness is not present among men we can not expect the laws to work well, for the fundamental thing is the kind of men behind the laws.—Rev. F. Phalen.

The church is stronger to-day than ever before, and what gives the church its present power is the fact that it has proven to be the greatest agency under God for the elevation of the race.—Rev. C. J. Hall.

A man may be great in many senses, but he can not be great in the best sense unless he recognizes somewhat of the divine in his own life and regards himself as being led by the Almighty.—Rev. Dr. Wrigley.

It is well to live for to-day, but he who lives his best for to-day lives also for eternity. Heredity is a fact that reaches further than we think. A Christian father sends his religion down to generations.—Rev. Dr. Burrell.

If the church of Jesus Christ ever does the work which her divine Lord has asked her to do, she must close up her ranks. A church divided into sects and denominations is not the church which he organized.—Rev. Dr. Harlan.

It is a good thing for both capital and labor that the whole country is a little chilly. Conscience is being stirred, new laws will be enacted, both capital and labor will see their mutual relations more clearly.—Rev. Dr. Collesser.

What men need to make them Christians is not to be better convinced of Christian truth, but to fall in love with Christian life. The world is not reading the Bible much, it is reading the lives of those who profess to believe it.—Rev. P. Pinch.

Whether we stay where we are or move out into some new sphere, we must be prepared to make any sacrifice that duty demands. Where conscience, duty, Christ calls, follow. Cost what it may, there must be no faltering, no hesitation. Only such can the Master put to use.—Rev. Dr. Alsop.

Make it your first business to be right, to live according to all the commandments of God, and the question of material good will settle itself naturally. The laws of God have to do with the body, as well as the soul, and make work as truly a religious duty as prayer.—Rev. Dr. Raymond.

Wonder why the Post-Dispatch does not prosecute some of its reporters, who cook up "news" to suit their own views? That paper recently published interviews with Frank Farris and George Lee, members of the state senate, both very abusive of Wm. J. Stone. These two gentlemen denounced the interviews as rank falsehoods and say that they refused to talk to the reporter.

Charles Mulhearn, who was recently stabbed in a personal encounter at Higginsville, is very much improved and has been taken to his home.

Mrs. Aylesbury, of Higginsville, died at her home Saturday night. She survived her husband only about two weeks.

## SALISBURY'S POOR MEMORY.

Late Prime Minister Lived in a World Apart from Others.

Whatever may be the cause, says the Review of Reviews, there is no mistaking the fact that Mr. Balfour's accession to the premiership has occasioned less stir than many political incidents of much less importance. Mr. Gladstone lived ever in the public eye. Week days and Sundays he was always doing and saying something which afforded material for newspaper comment. The public took the keenest interest in his books, his porcelain, in his cutting down trees at Hawarden, in his reading the services in the parish church. He was a performer always in the glare of the footlights, whether in office or out of it. Lord Salisbury lived in comparative seclusion. If he did not direct the affairs of a world-wide empire from a hermitage, he governed it from Hatfield, and often for weeks he would never leave his retreat, even for the purpose of meeting the diplomatic representatives of other powers at the foreign office.

The Cecils are a world unto themselves and if Lord Salisbury may not be exactly said to be one of those world forgetting mortals by the world forgot, he lived and lives apart. Of late years his memory has failed him, not for facts so much as for faces, and all manner of odd stories are current as to the mistakes which he made owing to his inability to distinguish between individuals.

On one occasion a worthy wine merchant, who was invited to spend a week end in a family party at Hatfield, is said to have been mistaken by the late prime minister for Lord Roberts. The delusion was so complete that, after opening the conversation at the dinner table, he carried his astonished guest off into the library and insisted upon learning from his uninstructed lips exactly what he thought of the campaign in Africa. "Tell me," so the story goes, "tell me," he said to the flattered but bewildered wine merchant, "what you really think of the war in South Africa. Will Lord Kitchener make as great a mess of it as all our other generals?"

The good man rose to the situation, and was rewarded by being anxiously asked by the prime minister what he would do if he were in South Africa at that moment. It was not until the following day that the guest was aware of the reason for the strange solicitude which the prime minister had shown for his opinion upon military tactics.

On another occasion he is said to have asked who that remarkably intelligent young man was with whom he had just been transacting business. "It is one of your private secretaries," was the reply. When a man forgets the face of a private secretary and confounds wine merchants with commanders-in-chief it is not surprising that he should find the time had come for his departure.

## OLD PARISIAN BOOKSELLER.

One of the Most Popular Venders of Rare Books Is No More.

One of the most popular, as well as most erudite Paris venders of rare books, M. Porquet, has died at an advanced age, at his rooms in the Avenue de l'Opera, whither he retired when he gave up his remarkable shop on the Quai Voltaire. The deceased, says the London Telegraph, had superintended in his time sales of such libraries as those of the Comte de Bejange, the Marquis de Gamay, the Baron de la Roche Lacreelle and M. Lignerolles. During a space of 70 years M. Porquet kept his shop, and would never have it lighted by gas. For 50 years he had a single assistant, who was a specialist like himself. This was Amadee, who was well known to many booklovers, and with whom the Duc d'Anmale never failed to shake hands when he looked into the shop on the Quai Voltaire. M. Porquet made a good deal of money out of his sales. His only recreation after he shut up his shop was to go to the Comedie Francaise to witness one of the classical plays, for he abhorred the romanticists and the realists. The old bookseller had presented the Comedie with a very rare edition of Moliere, published in 1668. In return he was allowed a permanent free seat in the leading playhouse.

## Fined for Dancing.

At Luchow, in Germany, 129 fathers have been fined one mark apiece for allowing their children under ten years of age to dance at the harvest festival of a village near by. The village pastor objected to the dancing and reported the case to the police. It was discovered, however, that his children had danced too, and he was fined with the rest.

## A REMARKABLE JACKDAW.

Roost About London on the Queen and Street Cars.

Though by no means as old as Jackdaws go, the remarkable bird which has just died at the Angel, Brixton, says the London Telegraph, had made a considerable reputation during the nearly 11 years of its association with mankind, and the original purchase price of 18 pence which was paid by its owner, Mr. Thomas Beck, some ten years ago, was but a fraction of its value at the time of its death. Wonderful intelligence and no less surprising originality of behavior were the characteristics of Jack, who was a favorite with all in the Brixton district, though his roaming habits had made him not unfamiliar in other parts of the metropolis. In his very early and irresponsible youth Jack was a mischievous daw, but after his first owner, a little schoolboy, had sold him to Mr. Beck his manners became more sedate, though they never lacked variety, the consequence being that scores of well-authenticated stories are extant of the bird's feats and his remarkable intelligence and memory. His first home was a private house at Clapham, but after he became an inmate seven years ago of the Angel, at the corner of Loughborough road, he took a more extended view of life, until his exploits became of almost world-wide fame, for among those who have been to pay him a visit have been a large number of Americans and Australians, who, seeing, have coveted the sprightly bird.

Jack's first flight from home was when he sailed to the roof of a house opposite the Angel. He returned safely to the call of his master, but this excursion evidently gave him confidence, and thenceforward it was his practice to leave and return to his home whenever the spirit moved him. In his restless moods it was his habit to alight on the tram cars and buses which passed his door and journey with the conductors to such places as the Elephant and Castle, Westminster, Blackfriars bridge and Stratford. Another favorite resort of this strange bird was the police station, whence, after favoring the constables with his company for an hour or two, he would leave for home on a tram car. Like the independent citizen he was. These habits and the general friendliness he displayed toward those who treated him kindly made the jackdaw an immense favorite in the neighborhood, and the news of his sudden death brought great sorrow to his master and mistress, as well as to his many admirers. Jack led a very systematic life. First and foremost he was the confidant and personal friend of his owner, whom he followed about the house and regarded with remarkable fidelity. An original genius, Jack scorned the roosting places of ordinary members of his species, and chose as his perch the neck of a wine bottle resting in a basket on the bar counter. Settled here at bedtime, he sleepily said "Good-night" in his own bird language to his master, but he was the first up in the morning, and signified the same by regularly rapping at Mr. Beck's bedroom door. Having superintended his master's tubbing operations, Jack invariably hopped down to the bar, and, standing in the basin under the water tap, waited till he received a refreshing shower. This was his daily bath, which he never neglected.

At the time of his death Jack was molting, and the day before he died he took two baths, the suggestion being that he was trying to alleviate the tiresome irritation which accompanied his annual feather shedding. Whether this had anything to do with his death is not known, but the next morning Jack was found dead underneath his extemporized perch. The sharp-witted jackdaw, who was friendly with all who behaved properly toward him, never forgot a foe, and would unerringly recognize and attack persons who had ill-treated him. He was a clever trickster, and a joke he sometimes enjoyed was flying off with the small change of unobservant customers. Still, he never made an enemy. Jack will be stuffed and be represented as perching on the bottle, his grasp of which he relinquished when death took him.

## The Most Valuable Book.

The most valuable work in existence is said to be a copy of the Koran now treasured in the Mohammedan city of Iscon-Rusa, Persia. The covers, 24 inches by four inches, are of solid gold an eighth of an inch thick, while precious stones set in symbolic designs figure in the center and at each of the corners. The book is written upon parchment, and this part of the work is valued at \$125,000.